Remarks

By this Reply, Applicants amend claims 1, 4, and 6-10. Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action of July 14, 2006 ("Office Action"),[1] claims 1, 2, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,335,914 B2 ("*Tanaka*").[2] Claims 3-5 and 7-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and address the rejection and objection below.

Section 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, and 6

Applicants traverse the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, and 6 because *Tanaka* fails to anticipate the claims. In order to properly anticipate Applicants' claimed invention under § 102, a single prior art reference must disclose each and every element of the claim at issue, either expressly or under principles of inherency. Further, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim" and "[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim." M.P.E.P. § 2131.

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[1] The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether or not any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

[2] *Tanaka* is a counterpart application to JP 2000-011511, which was cited in Applicants' specification. Applicants note that the counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-81681 has already been allowed.

With regard to independent claim 1, *Tanaka* fails to disclose at least the following features:

> a plate member comprising a boss and a cam groove, the boss of the rack member being provided to transfer a driving force to the plate member, wherein a slope portion of the cam groove of the plate member meshes with the boss of the rack member when the rack member is driven toward the inner circumference of the optical disc; and
>
> a cam slider slidably supported by the base chassis of the optical disc apparatus, the boss of the plate member being provided to transfer a driving force to the cam slider, wherein the cam slider comprises a cam groove to guide the boss of the plate member for raising and lowering the drive mechanism chassis so as to clamp and unclamp the optical disc, a boss to guide the tray, and a rack to mesh with the tray drive gear, wherein . . . when the rack member is driven toward the inner circumference of the optical disc, the cam slider slides in linkage with the plate member. . . .

Tanaka describes an optical disc device. Abstract. In *Tanaka*'s system, a switching lever (42) is rotated by a switching rack (46) to slide a rack body (47). In response to lateral movement of the rack body, cam pins (63) on a vertical slider (6) engage cam grooves (64) on the rack body, which causes the vertical slider to move in a vertical direction. A traverse base (3) swings around in response to movement of the vertical slider. *See* col. 5, lines 30-51; col. 6, lines 34-42; col. 7, lines 28-36; Figs. 8-10.

Tanaka fails to disclose a "plate member" comprising a "boss . . . provided to transfer a driving force to the cam slider" and further comprising a "cam groove . . . [that] meshes with the boss of the rack member," as recited in claim 1. The Office Action alleged that *Tanaka*'s vertical slider 6 comprises a boss (63) that transfers a driving force to a cam slider (47) and a cam groove (64) that

meshes with a boss (61) of a rack member (58). Office Action, p. 3. *Tanaka*'s vertical slider 6, however, does not comprise a cam groove that meshes with a boss of a rack member. Cam groove 64 is formed in the rear surface of the cam body rack 47, not in vertical slider 6. Col. 6, lines 34-42; Figs. 9, 10. Further, cam pins 63 in the vertical slider do not transfer a driving force to rack body 47. Instead, the cam pins engage the cam grooves in the rack body in response to lateral movement of the rack body, which is caused by rotation of the switching lever by the switching rack.

Tanaka also fails to disclose a cam slider that comprises "a cam groove . . . [and] a boss to guide the tray" and that "slides in linkage with the plate member" when the rack member is driven, as required by claim 1. The Office Action alleged that *Tanaka*'s cam slider 47 comprises a cam groove to guide the boss of the plate member (6) and a boss to guide the tray. Office Action, p. 3. *Tanaka*'s rack body 47, however, does not constitute the claimed "cam slider." *Tanaka*'s rack body 47 does not comprise a boss to guide a tray and does not slide in linkage with the vertical slider in response to a transfer of driving force from a boss of the vertical slider. In *Tanaka*'s system, rotation of the switching lever by the switching rack slides the rack body. Lateral movement of the rack body causes pins of the vertical slider to engage the cam grooves of the rack body, which causes the vertical slider to move.

The tray device mechanism defined by claim 1 allows a reduction in structure size and a reduction in complexity of an optical disc apparatus. *Tanaka*'s system does not provide such features. For example, *Tanaka*'s system

uses rotation of a switching lever by a switching rack to slide a plate member. The tray device mechanism recited in claim 1 does not require such elements, allowing reduced size and complexity.

For at least the foregoing reasons, *Tanaka* does not disclose a tray drive mechanism including at least a "plate member" and a "cam slider," as recited in claim 1. Because *Tanaka* does not disclose each and every feature of claim 1, as a matter of law, it cannot anticipate that claim. As a result, the § 102(b) rejection of claim 1 based on *Tanaka* should be withdrawn. Claims 2 and 6 depend upon claim 1 and are distinguishable from *Tanaka* for at least reasons similar to those presented above in connection with claim 1. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection and the timely allowance of claims 1, 2, and 6.

Objection to claims 3-5 and 7-10

The Office Action objected to claims 3-5 and 7-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, indicating that the claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form with the features of the base and intervening claims. Claims 3-5 and 7-10 depend upon claim 1. For at least the reasons presented above, the §102(b) rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of the objection and the timely allowance of claims 3-5 and 7-10.

Conclusion

Applicants request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing and the timely allowance of pending claims 1, 2, and 6. If there are any questions regarding this paper or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010482.53914US).

Respectfully submitted,

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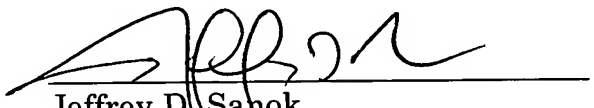

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